

## 75. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xix. Nos. 1 and 2, January and April 1902.]

Mr. A. C. Bent begins the year with a continuation of his illustrated paper on the nesting-habits of the Anatidæ in Northern Dakota, which is concluded in the April number. Mr. James Haynes Hill contributes a short article on *Loxia leucoptera* in captivity; while the title of Mr. J. W. Daniel's paper on the summer birds of the Great Dismal Swamp will revive recollections of anti-slavery agitation in readers of mature age. Mr. W. H. Kobbe investigates the question of the species or races of Herring-Gulls, and comes to the conclusion that there is no specific distinction between *Larus argentatus* and *L. vegæ* of Palmén, but that *L. cachinnans* is quite recognisable. We are glad to see that he has made good use of the Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. xxv., although he has not arrived at quite the same conclusions as the author of the section Gaviæ. Mr. H. B. Bigelow's list of the birds observed on the north-eastern coast of Labrador is a useful supplement to Mr. L. M. Turner's birds of Ungava. The Report of the Committee on the Protection of North-American Birds is of great interest, especially Mr. Dutcher's portion relating to the Gulls and Terns. We may pass over some American papers which will be duly noted by the recorder of 'Aves' in the 'Zoological Record'; but occurrences of *Mareca penelope* in North Carolina and Long Island, as well as of *Nettion crecca* in the latter, deserve mention on this side of the water.—H. S.

## 76. Baker on the Birds of North Cachar.

[The Birds of North Cachar. By E. C. Stuart Baker. Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.—Part III. *op. cit.* ix. p. 111 (1894); Part IV. *op. cit.* x. p. 1 (1895); Part V. *op. cit.* x. p. 161 (1896); Part VI. *op. cit.* x. p. 339; Part VII. *op. cit.* x. p. 539 (1897); Part VIII. *op. cit.* xi. p. 291; Part IX. *op. cit.* xi. p. 390; Part X. *op. cit.* xii. p. 486; Part XI. *op. cit.* xiii. p. 399 (1901); Part XII. *op. cit.* xiii. p. 563.]

Mr. Baker has now sent us a complete set of his series of papers on the birds of North Cachar, of which we

have previously noticed only the two first parts (see 'Ibis,' 1895, p. 488). Taking them altogether we have a complete account of the Ornis of one of the most varied and interesting districts of the Indian Empire, to which the energetic author has devoted unceasing attention for many years. The excellent field-notes contain accounts of numerous discoveries of nests and eggs not known to any other collector and of great rarity. The eggs of three species of *Pitta* are described, as are also those of several little-known Cuckoos (*Coccytes coromandus*, *Chalcococcyx maculatus*, and *Hierococcyx nisicolor*), and full details of the curious nests of *Batrachostomus* are given.

*Cyanops robustirostris* (on the plate called *Mezobucco r.*) and *Corythocichla squamata* are described as new to science and figured, but the latter, Mr. Baker now tells us, is not different from *Turdinulus murinus* (Blyth).

#### 77. Bangs on Birds from Chiriqui.

[I. On a Collection of Birds made by W. W. Brown, Jr., at David and Divala, Chiriqui. By Outram Bangs. *The Auk*, xviii. pp. 355-370.

II. Description of a new Woodpecker from Chiriqui. By Outram Bangs. *Pr. New Engl. Zool. Cl.* ii. p. 99.

III. On a Second Collection of Birds made in Chiriqui by W. W. Brown, Jr. By Outram Bangs. *Op. cit.* iii. pp. 15-70.]

In the first paper an account is given of a collection of bird-skins made by Mr. W. W. Brown, jr., in the lowlands of Chiriqui, at David and Divala. In 58 days this energetic taxidermist managed to secure 1183 specimens of birds and many mammals besides. Mr. Bangs gives a list of about 160 species, whereof six are "forms that appear to be new"; but it may seem to some of us that Mr. Bangs "cuts" his species and subspecies "rather fine." We may also remark that Mr. Bangs does not seem to be aware of the existence of a paper on the birds of the same district published as long ago as 1856, or at any rate does not mention it (see *P. Z. S.* 1856, p. 138).

The second paper is devoted to the description of a supposed new Woodpecker, based on a *single* specimen from

the same collection, which is proposed to be called *Veniliornis neglectus*. It is stated to be "similar to *V. ceciliæ* of Colombia and Ecuador, but smaller," &c. We may remark that both Salvin and Hargitt (excellent authorities on the Picidæ) have examined *more than one* specimen of *Chloronerpes ceciliæ* from Veragua, and have not hesitated to identify it with the typical form from Colombia. We are inclined to prefer their view of the matter. Mr. Bangs does not even care to mention that these distinguished ornithologists were of a different opinion from his own.

The third paper gives an account of a second large consignment of birds amassed by Mr. Brown between January and August 1901, chiefly on the Volcano of Chiriqui, where Arcé made his celebrated collections for Messrs. Salvin and Godman. The species represented in this series are about 260, mostly, of course, the same as those obtained by Arcé, but some probably additional. There is an interesting itinerary of Mr. Brown's journey up the volcano, which is well worthy of perusal. Mr. Bangs makes 6 new species and 8 new subspecies, but all of them appear to be nearly related to known forms.

The *Zeledonia coronata* of Ridgway\*, formerly believed to be of Pteroptochian affinities, is now supposed by Mr. Bangs to be best put "somewhere near the Thrushes"!

#### 78. *Berlepsch and Hartert on the Birds of the Orinoco.*

[On the Birds of the Orinoco Region. By Count Hans von Berlepsch and Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. vol. ix., April 1902.]

Very little has been done in the way of ornithology in the district of the Orinoco, and this elaborate paper, the joint product of two well-known experts on South-American Birds, is consequently highly welcome to us. It describes the extensive collections made in 1897, 1898, and 1899 by Mr. and Mrs. Cherrie at several stations on the Lower and Middle Orinoco, from Altagracia upwards. The Tring Museum has, moreover, received a considerable number of skins from Ciudad Bolivar and from Suapure on the River Caura,

\* See 'Ibis,' 1889, p. 262.